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December 21, 2011

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Michelle Kerr, Remedial Project Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- Region 5 Superfund Division (SR-6J) 77 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: General Notice Letter and Information Request- Chemetco Superfund Site Hartford, Illinois

Dear Ms. Kerr:

Please be advised that I represent The Yaffe Companies, Inc. ("Yaffe") and its subsidiaries on various environmental matters. Approximately one week ago, our client forwarded to me a General Notice Letter and Information Request for the Chemetco Superfund Site in Hartford, Illinois. The General Notice Letter was directed to Mr. Roger Strong, an attorney in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma who represents Yaffe on corporate matters. This General Notice Letter did not identify the specific Potentially Responsible Party to whom it was directed. However, as Mr. Strong is the registered agent for a Yaffe subsidiary named Ball Pipe & Supply, Inc. ("Ball Pipe"), and because the attachments to the General Notice Letter refer to that company, we have assumed that Ball Pipe is the intended PRP recipient. If our understanding is correct, I will be representing Ball Pipe in this matter.

Beyond the Chemetco Site fact sheet and site background documents included with the General Notice Letter, we have very little information concerning the Site or the investigations previously conducted by Illinois EPA or the U.S. EPA. We are in the process of attempting to accumulate additional information from company records and other sources. In the meantime, be advised that it is Ball Pipe's intention to cooperate fully with EPA in this matter, including participating in future Site discussions and negotiations as appropriate.

On December 14, 2011, I also contacted Mr. Thomas Martin to let him know of our representation and to request additional time for Ball Pipe to respond to EPA's request for information. Mr. Martin kindly agreed to extend the deadline for our response to the RFI to February 3, 2012.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

FOULSTON SIEFKIN LLP

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CPE/cwp

cc: Harriet Muzljakovich- The Yaffe Companies, Inc. Thomas Martin, Esq. - U.S. EPA- Region 5